BY THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SCOTLAND:

A Solemne and seasonable WARNING to all Estates and Degrees of Persons throughout the Land:

For holding fast the League and Covenant with *England*, and avoiding every thing that may prove a snare and tentation to the breach thereof.

Published according to Order.

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THe Commission of the Generall Assembly Ordaines this Warning to be forthwith Printed, and that thereafter it be sent to Presbyteries, Requiring them, immediately after the receipt therof, to cause every Minister of their number read the same distinctly, and explain it to their people upon a Sabbath day in their severall Kirks, And that they report accompt of their diligence with the first convenience: Appointing in the meane time, that to morrow the same be read in all the Kirks of this City.

A. Ker.

A Solemne and Seasonable VVarning, to all estates and degrees of persons throughout the Land; By the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly, *Edinburg 17 Decemb. 1646.*

THe conscience of our duty, & of the great trust reposed in us, suffereth us not to be silent, nor to connive at the present dangers which may justly be apprehended & expected from the enemies of this Cause and Covenant; Who although they cannot in this conjuncture of time appear in the same manner as formerly they have done; yet having retained the same principles (while they seem to lay aside their former practises) do in a more covert and dangerous way still drive at their owne ends; And as Sathan is neither sleeping nor idle, though he appear not alwayes as a roaring Lion; So these who are inspired and acted by him, have their wheeles still moving, though sometimes they make no great noise. Wherefore that we may truely and faithfully contribute what is incombent to us, for preventing or removing any occasions of new troubles or differences between the King and his people, in both, or either of those united kingdomes, or between the Kingdomes themselves; And least the Church of Christ, and the true reformed Religion be againe tossed with another, and perhaps a greater tempest in the depth, after we seemed to be neer the harbour; We have found it, not onely competent to our place and calling, but necessary for us (according to former laudable presidents both old and late) To emit this new Seasonable Warning to the people of God in this Land, and to all

Estates and Degrees of men therein; Whom we exhort, That first, and above all things, They apply their thoughts to make peace with God, To take notice of the remaining and renewed tokens of divine displeasure against the Land, To tremble at the remembrance of former, and appearances of future judgements, To lament after the Lord, To lye low before the Throne of Grace, To cry mightily to heaven for dispelling that cloud of sin which separateth between our God and us, and for turning away that cloud of wrath which hangeth over our heads. There is cause to be humbled and to repent, as for all our iniquities, So for the too little assistance which hath bin given to such as have born the heaviest burthen, and suffered most in this Cause; And for the too much compliance with, and indulgence to many who have beene active in the late execrable Rebellion. We know that none can reach the perfection of their duety, neither will the Lord reckon with his People according to his Justice, but spare them who walk in the integritie of their Spirits, as a man spareth his own son, So that they may rejoyce in his mercy, notwithstanding of their short-comings, wherein they doe not allow themselves; But wilfull neglects are just grounds of a great controversie on the Lords part, and of deep humiliation on ours: And we conceive that the failings of many are such, because the Word of the Lord is a burthen unto them; And though they walk in the wayes of their own heart, yet they say they shall have Peace; We would have none that are thus guilty to account light of it, and say, *Is it not a little one?* Every duty whereto we are oblieged in the Covenant, is of great consequence, and breaches even in smaller things prove inlets unto more grievous revoltings.

When we consider how many who were once open opposers or secret underminers, being received to the Covenant, yet remaines disaffected to the ends of the same; We cannot but think that

that we walk in the midst of snares, and that mysteries of iniquity work amongst us, which may produce most sad and lamentable effects, unto the prejudice of our Religion and Liberties. Therefore, Because God hath no greater quarrell against a Nation then that of a broken Covenant; Let all who fear an Oath, remember the vows of God which are upon them, *Watch and Pray*, and take good heed that they bee not cheated nor charmed into a violation of all, or any of the Articles of that Sacred and Solemn League and Covenant; And let these especially be observed and avoided, who do, or shall indevour a division and breach between the Kingdoms, or the making of any factions or parties contrary to the Covenant, under pretence of preserving the King and his Authority, whilest they do not constantly and sincerely prosecute and presse our frequent desires of his subscribing the League and Covenant, and giving satisfaction in all things to the just desires of both Kingdomes; Which underhand dealing can prove nothing else, but an abusing of His Majesty for mens own designes: We wish that none suffer themselves to be deceived by any false glosses of the Covenant, under which some may possibly urge the keeping of it, so as to draw us into a certaine breach thereof, and presse the defence of the Kings Authority and of Religion, to engage us in those wayes that would tend to the ruine of both: We are not now to presse the want of full satisfaction in the much desired work of Uniformity, as the ground of a breach betweene the Nations; Though we still conceive, this Nation will never be wantiug to prosecute that worke to the uttermost of their power in all lawfull wayes, according to the League and Covenant.

These Kingdoms, after many fervent Supplications and faithfull endeavours of all the Lovers of Truth and Peace, have been happily united into a League and Covenant, which to this day hath been kept inviolably, notwithstanding of all the opposition

of open Enemies, and plotting of secret Underminers; And we are confident, that none but such as have hearts full of Atheisme and Treachery, will attempt the violation thereof, in whole, or in part: And that if any shall doe the same, they shall expose themselves to the Curse of Almighty God, who will be avenged upon all that Sweare falsly by his Name. We know that men of perverse mindes, wanting the feare of God, and measuring all things by their owne ends, may conceive of it as alterable, or at least, that all the Clauses or Heads thereof are not so to be stuck upon, but that some one or mo may be dispensed with upon civil advantages: But *we have not so learned Christ* or his Word; Both Nations have Covenanted with God, and each of them with another, in things most lawfull and necessary for the preservation and good of both, without any limitation of time: And therefore we and our posterity are obliged before God unto the observation thereof, *as long as the Sunne and Moon shall endure.* The sense of these things ought to be so deeply engraven upon the hearts of all that are in trust, That as they should from their souls abhor every thought of a breach with *England*; So should they carefully and wisely study to avoide every thing that may prove a snare and tentation unto the same. Amongst other things, If his Majesty shall have thoughts of comming to this Kingdome at this time, he not having as yet subscribed the League and Covenant, nor satisfied the lawfull desires of his loyall Subjects in both Nations, Wee have just cause to feare that the consequences of it may be very dangerous, both to his Majestie and these Kingdoms; Which therefore we desire may be timely prevented.

For so long as his Majesty doth not approve in his heart, and seal with his hand the League and Covenant, we cannot but apprehend, that according to his former Principles, he wil walk in opposition to the same, and study to draw us unto the violation thereof,

thereof, and the diſſolution of the Union ſo happily begun between Us and our Brethren, To weaken the Confidence and truſt, and to entertain Jealouſies, & make diviſions amongſt our ſelves; Neither is it poſſible, But that our receiving Him in this preſent poſture of affairs, will confirme the ſuſpicions of the Engliſh Nation, of our under-hand dealing with him before his comming to our Army; And make them, not without cauſe, to think That We purpoſe to diſpoſe of him without their conſent, and to their prejudice; Which is contrary to the Profeſſion of theſe that were in truſt at his Majeſties firſt comming to the Scots Quarters, and overthroweth all the Arguments that have been uſed by the Commiſſioners of our Parliament in their Papers concerning *The diſpoſing of His Majeſties Perſon by the joynt advise and common conſent of both Kingdoms given into both Houſes of Parliament in* England; Nor doe we ſee how we can vindicate ſuch a practice from a direct breach of our engagements to them by Covenant and Treaty; Which were not only to expoſe us into the hazard of a Bloody War, but to involve us in the guilt of Perjury. And what greater diſſervice could be done to His Majeſty and his Poſterity, then to give way to a courſe that might prove prejudiciall to their intereſt in the Crown and Kingdome of *England*.

Our carriage now for many yeers paſt, in the midſt of many tentations, hath put us beyond all ſuſpicion in the point of our Loyalty; Nor have we the leaſt thoughts of deſerting the Kings Majeſty in a juſt and good cauſe, being bound by our Covenant in our ſeverall vocations to endeavour with our eſtates and Lives, to preſerve and defend His Perſon and Authority, in the defence and preſervation of the true Religion and Liberties of the Kingdomes; And ſo farre as His Majeſty ſhall be for theſe, We really are, and we truſt the reſt of his Kingdoms will be for him: Yet we cannot deny, but openly avouch it, That if His

Majeſty

Majeſtie (which the Lord forbid) ſhall not ſatisfie the juſt deſires of His People, Both Nations ſtands mutually obliged by that inviolable Covenant to purſue the ends therein expreſſed (which cannot be divided) againſt all lets and impediments whatſoever. It is therefore our moſt earneſt and longing deſire, That as theſe who are in truſt with the publike affaires of this kingdom have heretofore with all earneſtnes & care in all their addreſſes dealt with His Majeſty, with much ſtrength of reaſon and vehemency of affection, ſo they would ſtill deal with him, to grant his Royall conſent to the deſires of both Kingdoms, for ſetling Religion according to the Covenant, and for ſecuring a perfit and durable Peace (which we looke upon as the only hopefull means of preſerving himſelfe, His Crown, and Poſterity) That His Majeſty may return to His Houſes of Parliament in *England* as a reconciled Prince to ſatisfied Subjects; And that acclamations of joy may be heard in all His Majeſties Dominions, and no ſound of Warre heard therein any more, except againſt the bloody Irish Rebells, under whoſe barbarous and cruell perſecution, our diſtreſſed Brethren, both in this Kingdom and in Ireland are ſtill groaning and crying out to us and to our Brethren in England, *Be at peace among your ſelves and come to helpe us.*

A. Ker.